

# Public Guardian & Conservator Program

A guardian makes decisions for another person who is incapable of making decisions for him or herself. The Center for Elder Rights administers the Public Guardian & Conservator Program in Virginia. To be eligible for the program, individuals must be indigent, incapacitated (as determined by a Virginia Circuit Court), and have no suitable person willing or able to serve as their guardian. Individuals are selected to be included in the public guardian and conservator program by a community multi-disciplinary panel.

## Virginia Public Guardian & Conservator Facts

- ◆ Prior to 1999, the sheriff in each locality served as the guardian.
- ◆ At present, only 10% of the state has a guardianship program.
- ◆ In the 2000-2002 budget, a total of \$500,000 in funding was made available for the public guardian and conservator program.
- ◆ The program's current capacity is 207 incapacitated individuals who are served by 9 social service agencies.
- ◆ The cost per incapacitated person per year ranges from \$3,550 in Northern Virginia to \$2,300 in Southwest Virginia.
- ◆ The statewide average cost per incapacitated person is \$2,415 per year.

If you would like more information, or are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact the Center for Elder Rights.



## **Center for Elder Rights**

Virginia Department for the Aging

1610 Forest Avenue, Suite 100

Richmond, VA 23229

Phone: (804) 662-9333

Fax: (804) 662-9354

E-mail: [aging@vda.virginia.gov](mailto:aging@vda.virginia.gov)

Web site: <http://www.vda.virginia.gov>

**This service is provided at no cost by the Virginia Department for the Aging.**

**Nationwide Toll-Free Voice/TTY: 1-800-552-3402**